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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/843,830	04/30/2001	Byoung Ku Kim	8733.310.00	1003
30827	7590	04/18/2006	EXAMINER	
MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP 1900 K STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006			KIM, RICHARD H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2871	

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/843,830

Applicant(s)

KIM ET AL.

Examiner

Richard H. Kim

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 6-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 6-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/31/05 has been entered.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: It is suspected that Applicant has made a typo in the word "silicon": Examiner suspects that Applicant intended the element to be made of silicone, and has examined the case accordingly. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3 and 6-15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over An (US 6,392,725) in view of Wang et al. (US 6,600,394 B1).

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As to claims 1, 2 and 6, An discloses a liquid crystal module having improved fixing structure comprising optical sheets (145, 146) included in a backlight assembly (140) (col. 5, lines 7-13), a main frame (132) mounted with the backlight assembly, a shaft member (172, protrusion) installed at the main frame (132) to fix the optical sheets (col. 6, lines 24-31). An also discloses a panel guide (170, fixing unit) engaged in the shaft member (172) for surrounding the backlight assembly (140) and the main frame (132, Fig 4), wherein the shaft member has a columnar shape (172). An also discloses that the optical sheets have holes (178) (col. 6, lines 26-28). However, the reference does not disclose at least one silicon pad provided on the optical sheets between the panel guide and the main frame, wherein the silicon pad is provided with a hole through which the shaft member passes.

Wang et al. discloses a device comprising a silicone pad (45).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a silicone pad provided on the optical sheets between the panel guide and the main frame, wherein the silicon pad is provided with a hole through which the shaft member passes since one would be motivated to absorb tolerance build-up and dimensional changes as the temperature varies; and further to absorb vibration and shock (col. 3, lines 59-65). Even though Wang et al. is directed to a filter, the advantages of Wang et al. is applicable to a liquid crystal device. Liquid crystal displays are subject to temperature changes as well as shock. Therefore, employing a silicone pad in the LCD of An would provide that same advantages as what is disclosed in Wang et al.

As to claim 3: An discloses that the main frame (132) is provided with a stepped hole (138).

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As to claims 7-10 and 12-14, An discloses that the shaft member (172) has a protrusion (col. 6, line 26) having a width smaller than the width of the shaft member (Fig. 4) , as recited in instant claims 7 and 12. The extension of the protrusion through the holes in the optical sheets is shown in Figure 4 and (col. 5, lines 26-28), as recited in instant claim 8. The protrusion has a circular cross-section and the holes have a circular shape (Fig. 4), as recited in the instant claims 10 and 14 and the matching shape of the holes and the protrusion can be seen from Fig. 4, as recited in the instant claims 9 and 13.

As to claims 11 and 15, An discloses that the panel guide (170) has a holes (178) formed therein through which the protrusion (172) extends (Fig. 4) and (col. 5, lines 51-55).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard H. Kim whose telephone number is (571)272-2294. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-6:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H. Kim can be reached on (571)272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Richard H Kim
Examiner
Art Unit 2871

RHK

Andrew Schechter
ANDREW SCHECHTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER